Communication and governance in the sub-Saharan Africa

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Communication and Governance in sub-Saharan Africa-

We have three key elements here:

Communication, Governance and Development.

- Communication, simply is the act of transferring information from one place to another (Honderich, 1995).

- The definition becomes much more complex as we begin to consider the aim and purpose of communication.

- As the aim and the purpose of communication determines the means/tools to be used: Political (Narration, oratory, persuasive)

- The interest here is the impacts of Information and communication Tech. (ICT) via governance on the region of sub-Saharan Africa.

- And for the purpose of this paper, I will be looking at the impacts of ICT in development. –Ghana and Nigeria

ICT as a transformational or an information revolutionary

- World Bank- supra note 3 -1: broadly refers to the phrase 'information and communications technologies' to mean-Fixed, mobile telephones and Internet:

- ICT impacts is considered as transformational and could also be seen as "Information revolutionary".

- This (Drucker, 1999) referred to as tools of economic transformation that brought about over the last 50 years through machinery, techniques and software development.

- All nations of the world have experienced this changes through wide range of technological structures- facilitating entertainments- (Hanson-1990).

- Such as radio, film and television; adding a large scale to computer and satellite communication.

Global Liberalisation of communication Market:

-The twin forces of privatisation and libralisation in the last two decades crumbled the incumbent telephone operators –led to new era in digital connectivity to millions consumers.

- Thanks to the transfer from government to private ownership with the sale of shares of British Telecoms in 1984 and Nippon Telephone and Telegraph in 1985.

- Spread to 80 developing countries by 2003.

- Half of the markets for fixed local and international telephone services in developing countries were opened to competition and 130 countries had at least three competing providers of mobile services.

Theoretical Insight

-Communication theory is appreciated on the basis of its relevance to practical human-life (Craig,1999).

-The various theories offer distinct ways of conceptualising communication problems and practices.

-The dynamics of communication are driven by the power of the media to select and shape presentations, messages to achieve the political, social and economic agenda so desired.

-This, Habermas, 2006 & Stabheim, 2009 –posited that communication allows a bridge of ideas of normative theory and political reality.

Understanding Machiavellian concept of communication and governance

-The idea that "the end justifies the means"-An art of tactful governance.

-Communication plays a very important role in the political, economic and social activities in government and leadership.

-Machiavelli's lying technique to govern a state might be considered amoral or synonymous to double speak but when beneficial to the state is right.

-That, Bentham (1748-1832) also considerjustifiable in his work "consequentialism"-'action with moral repercussion'.

Development

- Development is the act of improving quality of life, and ensuring that everyone has a preference in life choices-(Honderich 1995)

- It is needed to provide people with basic necessities of life and self esteem.

- There is a growing evidence that Information and communication technologies is associated with growth and development.

- Foucault Michel-The French philosopher, using his understanding of historical facts and political perception to re-energise his call for governmental roles in providing necessaries for the governed.

Governance

-According Mcintyre et al (2010), there are many interpretations to governance.

-In the view of Williamson-2005 'Economics of governance' is the study of good order and workable arrangements.

-This workable government is what (Fuller, 1954) refers to as 'eunomics)

-So this distinction is important as we view governance as contributing to arrangements that are both socially and economically workable for the benefit of the governed.

Communication Governance

-Communication has profound political, economic and sociological impacts on all nations of the world.

-Particularly in the rearrangements of power relation among key message providers and receivers.

-Consensus in literature has shown that governance refer to mode; in which, government is only one among several, involved in governance.

-Therefore, communication governance is a multistakeholder process with actors drawn from market environment, civil society institutions, as well as the government.

Global World of Communication

-Globalising Information and communication technology has continue to change us and the way we live.

-Much of this we have seen in the medical world? The global world advancement in health research and findings.

-Services: ICT such as in e-government; e-health. You will agree with me that almost all services today are accessed online.

-Production: ICT is used as tools to create new jobs and income for the poor.

-Such livelihoods that emanate from web drawing, bloggers, wiki writers etc.

Entry of ICT into sub-Saharan Africa

-Different ICTs appeared in Africa at various points in varying degrees.

-The computer was the forerunner to modern ICT-Many countries and companies got automated in 1980s.

-By 1990s Internet connectivity has taken hold of many parts of Africa.

- Though Internet service appeared earlier, but its expansion was sluggish compared to the mobile telephone system.

Nigeria

-Nigeria like many other nations in the sub-region continue to suffer untold hardship despite her independence since 1960 partly because of poor communication facilities and services.

-But her story began to change for good since the liberalisation of the industry in 1999.

-ICT has brought about the creation of information at higher level.

-Mobile telephone soared from 370,000 in 2001 to 16.8 million in 2005.

Nigeria-continue

-Internet offers an incredible and unprecedented communication and transactions for the banks.

-ICT has become a bridge of information gap between the developed and developing worlds.

-Government insures that network operators were committed to infrastructural development.

Software development, Satellite programmes-NigComSat-!R launched Dec. 2011

Ghana

-The rural dwelling population constitutes 56.2%.

-They depend on subsistence agriculture and often lack the basic needs such as water education healthcare, etc. Life expectancy is 54.4 per cent.

-In response to global policy change in ICT-Ghana was among the first Africa countries to reform its ICT sectors.

-It liberalised its telecommunication sector since 1990.

Ghana-continue

-ICT has made communication in the rural area more accessible.

-It has enhanced decentralisation of government; and the promotion of rural tourism.

-Attraction of Micro and small enterprise (MSEs)

-Automation and Networking of Rural banks.

Conclusion

-Communication sector has performed in spectacular fashion in the last 15 years in the sub-Saharan Africa in the area development.

-The government should work more checking sharp practices in the industry.

-ICT must be designed and manufactured according to environmental suitability.

-Communities must have the right to use free software facilities.

Thank you for your Attention!!!